

# Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS



## President's Corner

—By Robert KA5WSS

[Field Day](#) is almost here! By now you should have received an email with a link to an online spreadsheet showing who's bringing what (both equipment and food) and what happens when. We would like to get an idea of how many people plan to attend the Field Day dinner on the evening of June 24th so we can plan on the amount of food required. So please enter your name(s) on the sheet or send us an email and we'll get you added.

A question was posed on a recent net asking about what Field Day is. An excellent question. It's an Amateur Radio mix of an emergency preparedness exercise and social gathering. We will set up multiple HF stations in the field at Sonoma Skypark and we will make hundreds of contacts with similar stations around North America. But we'll also have a

potluck dinner and generally socialize while operators do their thing.

Who's an operator? That would be you, we hope. Licensed or not, we encourage everyone to come by for as much time as you like. The operating pace is leisurely and we'd love to show you the ropes. Or just come by to observe. And don't forget to break bread with us at 6:00 PM on the 24th.



Since we might see each other as much as we did pre-COVID I'd like to encourage you to wear your VOMARC name tags at Field Day or anywhere else where we meet in person. These also come in handy should we get any non-member visitors to the Field Day site. The club has historically provided a free name tag to new members. If you'd like a name tag please let us know.





Field Day will actually be the main topic of discussion at our June monthly meeting. Be sure to join us on Zoom (details will be emailed the day before the meeting). We'll have a few slides with much more detail on what happens when and what we'll be doing.

I want to thank John (W8EWL) for offering to be weekly net control in October. We still have an opening for September and I encourage you to give it a try. We now have a [how to page on being net control](#). It's as simple as reading from a script and acknowledging people as they check in. Please reach out to me if you'd like to help with this.

### **NEXT MEETING**

**Wed, June 21, 2023, 7:30pm**

Zoom meeting room info will be emailed later.

Topic: **Field Day 2023**

## **Minutes of the May 17, 2023 meeting**

KA5WSS (Robert), W1EJ (Ed), KG6QNT (Eileen), WB6TMH (Mike), KE6HID (Andrew), KM6URP (Kathy), NJ6E (Stan), N6LY (Liz), K6YD (Kevin), KD6FIL (Dave), N7PIB (Sanford), K6GSM (Marc) NA6O (Gary-Presenter)

### **BUSINESS AND OFFICER REPORTS**

April minutes were not present in newsletter.

Officer Reports

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** - Eileen, KG6QNT- No News

**ACS LEAD** - Moe, KI6JNU-KD6FIL Filling in  
18th emergency exercise - Golden Eagle  
29th no ACS net

**VE LIAISON** - Elizabeth, N6LY

7 people tested at Hamfest, some under 18. Will send list to Robert for membership.

Upcoming tests: Jul 29 and Oct 28.

Reservations required. Probably 10 max.

**RADIO OFFICER** - Mike, WB6TMH – No updates  
Weekly Net Control

This month - Ed, W1EJ

Next month - Frank, KG6N

Need new net control ops for September and October

**TRUSTEE** - Darrel, WD6BOR – Not present

Hamfest - best fox hunt turnout. Overall a success. A little lower vendor participation, but still good. Some conflicting events (SCRA, Visalia, etc). See if we can adjust date somewhat.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER** - Dave, KD6FIL

Club taxes and articles of incorporation filed.

We are a 501c3 organization.

Bank balance: ~ \$4082

Vice President - Ed, W1EJ

Zoom call from April available for meeting notes?

**PRESIDENT** - Robert, KA5WSS

Plastic boxes for Hamfest items? KE6HID suggestion. Dave will measure the boxes and make suggestions.

Randy's AA6GV repeater donation? Still struggling with extra gear. Wait and see what Randy needs, if anything.

Point Reyes activation? Permitting people a couple of years ago were not enthusiastic. No interest. I will pass this along to the developer.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next month's meeting topic: Field Day 2023

Mystery Box drawing - postponed until in-person meetings are possible and we can be sure COVID-19 is not one of the contents. Ed has the mystery box for now. Will restart with Breakfasts.

**MEETING TOPIC** - Finding and Eliminating Receive Noise by Gary Johnson (NA6O)

Presentation available on the website at <https://na6o.com/main/RFI.html>

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

## On The Air

**Carl (N6TTV) and Ed (W1EJ)** both broke out their straight keys to participate in the [SKCC Weekend Sprintathon](#).

**Carl (N6TTV)** made 230 QSOs from 39 countries in the [CQ WPX CW](#) contest. Robert (KA5WSS) made 12 contacts.

**Robert (KA5WSS)** worked all three provinces of the [Canadian Prairies QSO Party](#) on his way to making seven contacts on CW and SSB. He made 10 QSOs during the [VOLTA RTTY Contest](#) with JA7ACM being the best DX. During the [ARRL Digital Contest](#) he made 182 contacts using FT4 and FT8.

**Sanford (N7PIB)** worked three new countries on FT8 (St. Vincent, West Malaysia, and the Isle of Man).

Be sure to listen on 6M now and then as the band has been very active lately. Carl (N6TTV) worked stations in TN and GA on 6M using

CW. Robert (KA5WSS) worked 86 stations on 6M using FT8 during openings on May 31st and June 6th, 11th and 12th. These netted a bunch of new grids, several of which have already been confirmed for the [VHF/UHF Century Club](#) award.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## Misc

- Welcome to new VOMARC members Matthew Anderson (W6MAA), Herbert Pondare, Frigyes Erdosi-Szucs (KB4RKS), Henri Montgomery-Yale and Dylan Hamley!
- Gary's (NA6O) presentation on [Finding and Killing Receiver Interference](#) is available on his website in case you missed the May meeting.
- Joe (N7TSQ) had to take down his HF antenna for a home improvement project. He has plans for an end fed antenna to be put up afterwards.
- If you missed Dayton Hamvention you can still view [the slides of the presentations at Contest University](#). Eight hours of [video from the presentations](#) are also available on YouTube.
- Andrew (KE6HID) is looking to buy a Kenwood TMD-710A or TMD-710G. If you have one for sale, or know someone who does please reach out to him.
- Smithsonian Magazine has a very nice article on the perseverance, if not outright growth, of [Morse Code among Amateur Radio operators in the United States](#).
- Researchers in Sweden have developed [the world's first electrical transistor made of wood](#).
- A bill has been submitted to help [preserve AM radio in passenger cars](#). Many car models, particularly electric cars, have AM radio receivers removed. Manufacturers find it easier

to remove AM rather than fix the wideband radio noise their engines are making.

- A startup has announced a [solid state active cooling device](#) that consumes 1W of power to dissipate over 5W of heat.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## Club Nets

Don't forget to join us on one of our weekly nets on local repeaters.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT NET

Every Wednesday at 7:30 PM except for meeting nights.

145.350- MHz repeater (PL 88.5Hz)

### TUESDAY BREAKFAST NET

Every Tuesday at 7:30 AM.

146.205+ MHz repeater (PL 88.5Hz)

### SATURDAY BREAKFAST NET

Every Saturday at 7:30 AM.

146.205+ MHz repeater (PL 88.5Hz)

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## ARRL To Join SAFECOM

The [American Radio Relay League](#) (ARRL) has been invited to join [SAFECOM](#). The program is managed by an agency within the US Department of Homeland Security. It sets standards for interoperability procedures that are used during times of crisis.



By being a member association of the group, Amateur Radio has a seat at the table when various agencies within government and organizations that work with them develop plans to better respond to emergencies. Some also see it as a way to help better develop standards

and training for [Amateur Radio Emergency Service](#) (ARES) volunteers.



—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## Parks on the Air Standings

Here's our yearly summary of [Parks on the Air](#) (POTA) totals for club members who we know to have been active with the program. If you're not here and would like to be included in future standings just drop us a note.

Activators		
Callsign	Parks	Activations
N6LY	106	220
K6YD	14	26
W1EJ	4	5
Hunters		
Callsign	Parks	QSOs
N7PIB	3145	5048
N6LY	720	1230
KA5WSS	213	262
K6YD	182	237
N6TTV	170	228
W1EJ	30	33
KD6FIL	18	18
N6FP	11	13

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS



# CARMICHAEL HAMFEST

—By Ed W1EJ

Despite enjoying our recent VOMARC hamfest, a few of us needed another fix. Most of the other hamfest junkies had more important things happening on the Sunday before Memorial Day, so only four of us ended up going. Stan (NJ6E) and Sabine drove up the day before, Mike (WB6TMH) and I did the usual 5:30 AM departure from Sonoma. With very light traffic we arrived at the Carmichael Elks fifteen minutes before the official 7:00 AM opening.

Even though it was early, most of the sellers were ready to go. There did not seem to be as many sellers as the last time we were there. A rough guess there were thirty sellers, no breakfast; but, coffee and donuts were available. We made a few round trips and met Stan and Sabine along the way

Mike picked up a few items of test gear to replenish his shop. Stan for the first time in many years of ham swaps, bought nothing! He was looking for an ICOM IC-7000 and there was one for sale. Unfortunately, the seller wanted to sell it as a package with a tuner but, it was more than Stan wanted to pay. Me, I spent a whole \$45. Fifteen dollars on some 50 AMP Power Poles, ten on a Southwest Technical Products (SWTP) function generator, ten on a Comet CFX-324 triplexer, and the rest on miscellaneous small stuff.

We were done shopping by about 8:30 so Mike offered to buy me breakfast. We started back on Winding Way toward Highway 80 looking for a spot to eat. Mike found a place on Google back the other way on Winding a few miles past the turn off to the Elks. The diner was in a half empty strip mall but there were many cars out front. Breakfast prices were quite reasonable and pretty tasty. Good find Mike, and thanks again for breakfast. An uneventful drive back and I think I was home before 11.



The SWTP function generator, seventies vintage, must have been in a dusty garage for the last twenty years, so dirty. A good washing of the outside with Simple Green and it looked great but operation was erratic at best. I guessed that the ten selector switches for frequency band and waveform might also be dirty from the same dust collection. I flushed each switch with alcohol and operated each one several times then put it back in the case. Voila, a working function generator. What about the bargain triplexer? It ended up costing me another \$200 for a Comet CX-333 antenna to go with it. It is going to count as a birthday/father's day present.

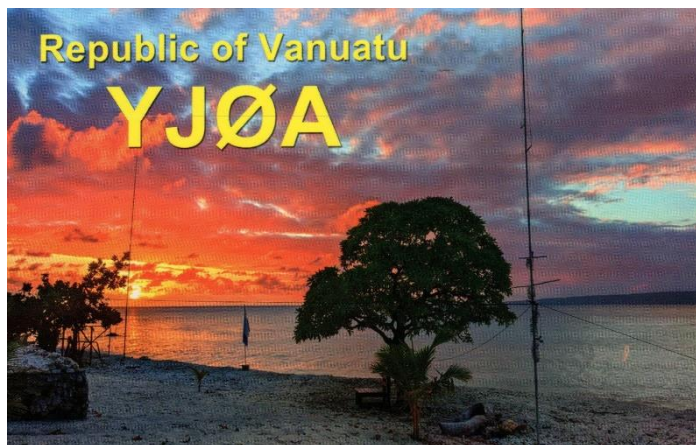
The next swap is the one in Lincoln California; so, set your clocks for September 16<sup>th</sup> and go have some fun.

## QSL Card Inbox



## QSL Card Inbox (Continued)

Radio Amateur Serhiy Rebrov (UT5UDX) [has been named the Ukrainian national soccer team's head coach](#). I worked him on FT8 when he operated as 5B4AMM in Cyprus.



Despite having good propagation into the Pacific, Vanuatu has often frustrated me. So I was happy to get this card from the [YJØA](#) DXpedition confirming FT8 contacts on 15M, 12M and 10M.



I got a good mix of QSO modes and bands for the [3B7M](#) DXpedition to Saint Brandon Island in the Indian Ocean. This card confirms CW, SSB and FT8 contacts on 20M, 17M, 15M and 10M.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## THE VOMARC WIRELESS

### VOLUME 27 EDITION 6

A PUBLICATION OF VOMARC, THE VALLEY OF THE MOON  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Robert Barron KA5WSS – President

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

*“Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.”—S. Marler*

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

**Breakfast Nets** are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

[Eileen@vom.com](mailto:Eileen@vom.com)

—or—

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

## ACS

### NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

## VOMARC

### NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	W1EJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	JOHN	W8EWL
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

## VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2023

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APT: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1<sup>st</sup> St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.